and allow public sector oil marketing companies to sign on dealership for petrol and diesel; and

(b) if so, the details of dealer selection guidelines to be followed by the public sector oil marketing companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) After the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector with effect from 1.4.2002, the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) are authorized to select dealers/ distributors for retail outlet dealership (petrol pumps), LPG distributorship and SKO-LDO dealerships on the basis of guidelines adopted by them. The Government have advised the OMCs to observe certain broad parameters in the guidelines.

Policy on Regulation of Pipelines

1493. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up a policy to regulate long distance pipelines, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether this policy will cover the existing gas pipelines; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) The Government has notified guidelines for laying petroleum product pipelines vide notification F.No. P-20012/5/99-PP dated 20.11.2002. These guidelines categorize the pipelines and inter-alia cover the issues of "ownership and access", "tariff" etc. The guidelines provide for at least 25% additional capacity over and above the requirement of the proposal for use by any other industry player under common usage. These guidelines will remain in force till the Petroleum Regulatory Board is established by an Act of Parliament. For gas pipelines, Government have issued a separate draft policy for development of gas pipelines network, inviting comments from stakeholders.